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## Arizona State Forester Issues Fire Restrictions on State-Owned Lands

### *More Restrictive Prohibitions Will Curtail Potential for Future Wildfires*

PHOENIX – Due to the continuing high risk of wildfire in Arizona, State Forester Scott Hunt today announced that the Forestry Division has strengthened the state’s current fire restrictions.

Effective today, June 28, 2011, these restrictions include a prohibition on the use of any fireworks on unincorporated state lands. Already prohibited on state lands are campfires, charcoal-burning devices and use of acetylene or other torches, as well as smoking unless it is within an enclosed vehicle or building, developed campground or area that is cleared of all flammable materials.

These restrictions apply to more than 9 million acres of unincorporated State Trust Lands, Game & Fish Wildlife Areas and Arizona State Parks. The restrictions also apply to Arizona Department of Transportation right-of-way property in unincorporated areas and not federally-owned. The state restrictions do not apply to private lands.

“In light of the dangerous fire conditions we’re seeing in our forests and the hundreds of thousands of acres that have already burned in recent weeks, these fire restrictions are necessary to prevent human-caused wildfires and protect public health and safety,” said State Forester Scott Hunt. “It’s especially important that Arizonans follow these restrictions and others implemented locally to limit the potential of additional devastating fires this summer.”

Pursuant to A.R.S. 37-623, the State Forester is given wide authority to restrict the use of open flames and fireworks on unincorporated areas of the state during times of high fire potential. Today’s restrictions update and replace an earlier State Forester Notice of Fire Restrictions that took effect May 11, 2011.

The updated restrictions are necessary due to the extreme fire danger being seen across Arizona. The combination of high temperatures, low humidity and strong winds – along with tinder dry vegetation – has made this summer one of the worst in memory for Arizona wildfires.

The State Forester's Notice of Fire Restrictions prohibits the following activities:

- Building or maintaining a fire, campfire, or charcoal burning device.  
(Petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns or heating devices are exempt)
- Smoking, unless it is done within an enclosed vehicle, building or developed campground, or within an area at least 10 feet in diameter and barren or cleared of all flammable materials.
- Welding or use of an acetylene or other torch device with an open flame.
- The use of fireworks.

Note: If local authorities have imposed stronger restrictions than those listed above, than the local restrictions shall apply.

The restrictions are effective June 28, 2011 and will continue until further notice.

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